AIR POUCH
PRIORITY

UNCLASSIFIED
(Security Classification)

DO NOT TYPE IN THIS SPACE
745h.00/8-2552

# FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM: AMCONGEN, Lagos, Nigeria

DEPT. NO. 110

TO: THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON

DATE: August 25, 1952

REF:

REVIEWED BY DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
RDS FOR XDS EXT
AUTH.
ENDORSE FOR LISTING MARKINGS
DECLASSIFIED RELEASED
RELEASE DENIED REASON
PA OR FOI EXEMPTIONS
DATE 7/16/82

| 17 For Dept. Use Only | ACTION NEA | DEPT. EUR OLI I IRS IFI L UNA IPS |
|---|---|---|
| nn | REC'D SEP 1 | INFO OTHER |

SUBJECT: Fortnightly Newsletter - August 11 - August 23, 1952

## POLITICAL

### House of Representatives Adjourns

The House adjourned on August 22 despite failure complete all action planned. Sitting characterized by large number (13) private members' motions. Government bills of non-sensational type to revise such ordanances as customs, shipping and navigation, pensions, criminal procedure, magistrates courts, goldsmiths, land and survey, and highways.

Measure which caused most public reaction, discussion concerned proposal separate Lagos from Western region. Action began with motion by Honorable K. O. MBADIWE (NCNC) that Lagos be separated. Member had announced action months ago and galleries jammed in anticipation his motion. Public very disappointed when presiding officer, Mr. Edward FELLOWES, ruled motion out of order. Stated basis for action fact motion would, in effect, bring constitutional revision. He said that this could not be done by motion in House of Representatives. Fellowes' decision brought scathing press denunciations and one vicious editorial in Lagos' Daily Success. This independent paper received motion of severe censure by House in last few moments of session-termed unwarranted attack upon House and its president.

House accepted Council of Ministers proposed salary revision. Proposal presented hot debate on floor as revisions no way near as high as government workers had asked. Despite noisy opposition and necessity devision in voting, measure passed 75 to 28.

Attitude of North toward question of retaining expatriate officers clearly shown in debate on motion to replace present Residents and District Officers with African officers. Member from Eastern region proposed House go on record as asking immediate establishment of Nigerian administrative officers these levels with expatriates as advisors. Motion roundly defeated by vote including full Northern membership of House. North does not want expatriate officers removed now. North also demonstrated this attitude during

DC/R Central Files 745H.00/8-2552

RWRoss/hgz
REPORTER

UNCLASSIFIED

ACTION COPY — DEPARTMENT OF STATE

The action office must return this permanent record copy to DC/R files with an endorsement of action taken.

debate on private motion to abolish all expatriate pay, tantamount to removal of expatriate officers. Northern representatives said expatriates will not work without allowances and country still needs their services.

Point Four was raised by member of House who asked how many technicians, experts and advisors have served in Nigeria under Point Four since 1950. Acting Chief Secretary replied that Point Four presently in abeyance pending revision by Congress of United States. Chief Secretary mentioned MSA assistance on Kano - Fort Lamy road, Enugu Colliery, three American geogolists, and American botanist.

Session saw expected alignment Eastern Region representatives (mostly NCNC) and Northern Region representatives against Western region Action Group members. Debates generally disappointing in lack quality of argument and evidence basic knowledge by speakers. Government not forced make extensive defenses of its measure. House reported plan next session December.

New Ministers Northern Region

Two new portfolios, Minister of Health and Minister for Local Industries created in Northern region. Malam Yahaya ILORIN and Mr. P. S. ACHIMUGU given new posts. Reshuffling remaining posts brings following lineup: Mallam Bello KANO, Minister for Community Development; Wali of Bornu, Minister of Natural Resources; Makaman BIDA, Minister of Education and Social Welfare; Sardauna of Sokoto, Minister of Works.

Committee of Inquiry on Lagos

The Governor in Council has appointed committee of one to investigate efficiency and suitability present Lagos Town Council. Bernard O. STOREY, O.B.E., Commissioner and District Officer Henry N. HARCOURT, Secretary. Anticipated inquiry will relieve some current pressures for revision of Lagos government. Newspapers feel inquiry will reveal gross ineptness of council and city system. Commissioner plans long, careful series hearings.

Nigerian Port Authority

Minister of Transport, Chief Bade THOMAS, announced formation Nigerian Port Authority. Mr. C. A. DOVE, English Tees Conservancy Commission chief, named General Manager. Dove to study local port needs, plan organization and draft necessary legislation. Jurisdiction all Nigerian ports.

Azikiwe Reelected National President NCNC.

NCNC held Fourth Annual Convention shortly after Azikiwe's

return from Helsinki. Opposition press had reported NCNC to retire Zik to position of "patron" but convention unanimously reelected him national president. Other officers elected were: Eyo ITA, Chief National Vice President; Mazi Mbonu OJIKE, Second National Vice President; Mr. Kola BALOGUN, National Secretary and T. O. S. BENSON, Legal Advisor. No new faces in central organization of party.

## ECONOMIC

### Western Regional Production Development Board and Old Projects.

Reorganized WRPDB has announced it will not now consider any increase money already allocated projects initiated under old board. New members, mostly Action Group, refuse consider changes until African majority on board study entire system of projects. Board publicly admits projects not to continue unless in step with economic and development plans Action Group - Majority party Western region. This action by board long expected, as Action Group determined import political character to regions develop projects. Trend not welcomed by many groups responsible for initiation of projects.

### Russian Timber Bids Announced

Local press has announced entry USSR into British timber market. Commentators see new purchaser for slumping Nigerian timber trade. Feel Nigeria must, however, improve quality timber and lower prices to compete in Soviet market with Finns. Largest hope built around reputed demand Nigerian Obeche timber.

### New Cocoa Prices Announced

The Nigerian Cocoa Marketing Board announced a basic c.i.f. Lagos price of £170 per ton for Grade 1 Main Crop cocoa for 52/53. Price offered same as 51/52 price and set despite decline in world market price of cocoa. Board accepted fact of future price decline but continued policy of offering cocoa farmers higher prices financed from past surplus.

### Railway Service Seriously Slowed

As result of slowdown strike of workers at Enug Collieries train service cut gradually over past few weeks. Added to this is fear of slowdown strike announced by railway workers to start before end August. No settlement in sight of wage dispute causing Colliery slowdown or threatened slowdown of railway workers. Major problem brought about is slow evacuation peanuts from North to ports. Daily railway shipments peanuts down from approximately 450 tons to 200 tons. Moslems in Lagos concerned by cut in delivery of rams from North. They especially disturbed in view

imminence of Moslem festival calling for slaughter of rams. Prices being pushed very high due to lack of rams in the South.

## INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

**Western Region Scholarship Board announces policy.**

The Western Region Scholarship Selection Board has announced that scholars already in the United States and short of funds will receive first consideration for financial assistance. Students in same categories in U. K. to receive priority treatment also. Anticipate forty students will be helped by beginning Fall term in States. Board reconciled to fact few, if any, new scholarships can be given by coming school year.

## GENERAL

**Free Medical Service in Western Region.**

Western Regional government announces free medical and health service for children below eighteen will begin September first. Government hospitals and dispensaries to furnish free non-surgical aid, medicine, drugs, dressings, eyeglasses, and dental attention. Plan based on ability-to-pay and children of well-off parents must pay the costs involved. System is result of promise made by Action Group in recent session Western House of Assembly.

Robert W. Ross
Vice Consul